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Message Text

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44
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EURE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 IO-10 ACDA-10 /092 W
---------- 079613
P 271523Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7660
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
USCINCEUR
DIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 1630

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PARM, GR
SUBJ: DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF DENIES MILITARY BUILDUP AIMED AT TURKEY

1. MINISTER DEFENSE AVEROFF ISSUED STATEMENT FEBRUARY 26 IN WHICH HE DENIED ALLEGATIONS MADE BY TURKISH DEFENSE MINISTER SANCAR IN INTERVIEW WITH NEWSPAPER MILLIET THAT GREECE WAS INCREASING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO CYPRUS AND WAS UTILIZING ISLANDS OF CRETE AND RHODES AS MILITARY STAGING POINTS. AVEROFF SIMILARLY DENIED SANCAR ASSERTIONS THAT ETHNIC TURKS ON THOSE ISLNDS WERE BEING MOLESTED AND PRESSURED TO DEPART BECAUSE OF ALLEGED MILITARY BUILDUP.

2. AVEROFF ASSERTED HE FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND PURPOSE OF SANCAR STATEMENTS WHICH HE CATEGORIZED AS "INCACCURATE FROM BEGINNING TO END". HE STATED FLATLY THAT THERE IS "NOT THE SLIGHTEST" PREPARATION FOR ANY MILITARY EXPEDITINARY ACTIVITY BEING EFFECTED IN RHODES AND CRETE AND HE FURTHER CATEGORICALLY DENIED
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THAT THERE HAD BEEN EITHER MEN OR MILITARY EQUIPMENT

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DISPATCHED TO CYPRUS. REGARDING ETHNIC TURKS ON AEGEAN ISLANDS, AVEROFF ARGUED THAT ONLY A FEW SUCH PERSONS LIVED IN RHODES AND THAT THEY ENJOYED "FULL FREEDOM AND EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW".

3. AVEROFF DID ASSERT THAT DEFENSE MEASURES WERE NATURALLY BIENG TAKEN IN VARIOUS PARTS OF GREEK TERRITORY, A STEP WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN "BY ANY COUNTRY" IN THE FACE OF MULTIPLE PROVOCATIONS. KUBISCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 27 FEB 1975
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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TAGS: PARM, MASS, GR, CY, (AVEROFF, EVANGELOS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006